

The Durant Weekly News

Volume XI.

DURANT, CHOCTAW NATION, INDIAN TERRITORY, FRIDAY, MAY, 26, 1905.

Number 21

WILL OBSERVE DECORATION DAY

Grand Army and Confederate Veterans Will Jointly Recognize Memorial Day.

INTERESTING PROGRAM ARRANGED

Will Gather at Local Cemeteries and Pay Homage to Dead Soldiers by Decorating Their Graves.

The Grand Army veterans and the Confederate veterans and their sons and daughters of Durant and vicinity will jointly observe Decoration Day on Tuesday, May 30, and appropriate services will be carried out.

Following is the program of the day:

Call to order at Clark's Chapel, northeast Durant, at 10 a. m.

Address by C. C. Hatchett. Song by children, band accompaniment, "Nearer My God to Thee."

Recitation, "The Blue and the Gray," Miss Rose Patterson.

Song, "America," by chorus of young ladies, band accompaniment.

Procession will then form at chapel and march to the old cemetery where the graves of the old soldiers will be decorated.

Procession will next march to the Highland cemetery where the graves of the old soldiers will be decorated.

Closing at the graves of ex-Confederates where an address will be made by Victor C. Phillips.

All comrades and their sons and daughters are respectfully requested to be present and participate in the exercises. They are also requested to bring an abundance of flowers.

E. A. FLETCHER, Com. G. A. R. Post.

L. N. SETH, Com. U. C. V. Camp.

Notice.

Both my jacks and stallion will be located at E. R. Benson, two and one-half miles north west of Utica from May 29 to July 1. Anyone wishing service will call there between those dates.

T. J. Dansby.

HITCHCOCK WILL SIGN PATENTS

Attorney General Renders An Opinion Allowing Secretary to Approve Deeds

OF CHOCTAWS AND CHICKASAWS

Hitchcock's Approval is Essential to Constitute Patents a Transfer, as Was Intended by Congress.

The expected has happened. The great king of the Indian Territory, Ethan Allen Hitchcock, secretary of the interior, will sign deeds to land patents in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations. This matter has been determined by the Attorney General at Washington and Governors Johnston and McCurtain have been so notified.

The News gives as follows the message just received by Governor Johnston of the Chickasaws from Tams Bixby, chairman of the Dawes Commission:

Muskogee, I. T., May 22.—The Commission is instructed by wire to advise you that the Attorney General on the 22nd instant rendered an opinion that the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to approve allotment patents in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, and that his approval is essential to constitute them a transfer of such allotment, as was intended by Congress to be vested in the allottees, and that a copy of the opinion of the Attorney General has been transmitted to each of the clerks of the United States court in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations for their information and guidance.

Whether the opinion of the Attorney General will settle the controversy between the secretary and the governors, cannot at this time be stated, as it is not known just how high the Irish is in the governors. It is the opinion, however, that the trouble is near at end. The Indians are anxious that the matter end at once that they may get patents to their lands.

We have several places that we can make it as easy for you to buy as it is for you to pay rent. Come to our office and let us explain it to you. Hatchett & Cox.

240-3t

EDITORS WANTS AUTONOMY HITCHCOCK SEVERELY CRITICISED

Indian Territory Press Association Condemns Attitude of the Secretary of the Interior.

AGAINST THE TRIBAL TAX

Editors Will Make Fight For Single Statehood—Appeal to President Roosevelt For Relief.

The Indian Territory Press Association, in session at Sulphur last week, passed some ringing resolutions, declaring for single statehood or union with Oklahoma on terms of absolute equality, pointing to the perfunctory attitude of the business interests of St. Louis towards Indian Territory in the matter of legislation, condemning Hitchcock's policy in Indian affairs as being detrimental to the best interests of the people and asking for the removal of land restrictions.

One feature of the convention was the roasting of Hitchcock. Nearly every speaker had something to say concerning the attitude of the Interior Department in the Territory and Hitchcock was held responsible for this policy. He was termed by some of the speakers a tyrant and one devoid of friendship for the people of Indian Territory.

The resolutions are as follows:

Resolved, that we as an association, consider ourselves under deep obligations to Mayor Kendall and the citizens of Sulphur for their cordial hospitality, and but voice a united sentiment when we extend to them our due appreciation of their kindness, and we further extend to our official secretary, F. M. Dunham, and his wife, our thanks for untiring efforts for our enjoyment.

Resolved, that we heartily thank the railroads of the Indian Territory for kindness to the association.

Believing in the inalienable right of every man to a voice in the government under which he lives, we favor joint statehood of Indian Territory and Oklahoma as one state at the earliest practical moment on terms of absolute equality, and we further protest against any omnibus measure connecting our admission to statehood with the admission of any other territories, however meritorious their claims may be.

Whereas, we consider the removal of the present unjust and unreasonable restrictions upon the alienation of lands in the Indian Territory as of more importance than any other matter under present conditions;

And whereas it is an unquestioned fact that the homestead of the Indian with the remainder of his lands owned and occupied by actual bona fide settlers will be of more value to him than his entire holding under the present stifling conditions. Now therefore be it

Resolved, that we recommend to the congress that it enact legislation providing for removal of all restrictions from the alienations of lands except homesteads in the Indian Territory, retaining such provisions for the conservation of the proceeds of said lands in the case of incompetent persons as it, in its judgment may

see fit, to the end that all surplus lands may be made marketable without delay, and consequently taxable, and that the lands which now lie unoccupied and unproductive may be, without further unnecessary delay, improved and occupied by actual bona fide settlers.

Resolved, that we strongly urge upon the congress the vital necessity for prompt legislation prior to statehood, looking to the condemnation of roads throughout the nations of the territory, which have not already been provided for in that regard,

Whereas, the administration of Secretary Ethan Allen Hitchcock in the Indian Territory is a scourge to the best interests of white, red and black men alike, and we declare, with the evidences of the truth of this assertion upon every hand, that the arbitrary and ridiculous rule of the secretary of the interior are oppressive and tyrannical in effect upon the innocent and the deserving as well as upon the so-called grafters, the small and very inconsequential element against whom his rulings are directed.

We declare that in his attempt to collect the tribal taxes, and while the question of their validity is yet pending in the courts, and in his petty and arbitrary contentions with the governors of the various tribes, he has worked untold hardships upon the allottees.

That in instances where his personal judgment has been exercised in making purchases and in recommending the expenditure of public funds in the Indian Territory, he has proven unmindful of the public interest, or sadly lacking in business judgment.

We condemn the secretary's administration of affairs in the five tribes as vassalizing and extravagant in the extreme.

We point to the fact that as a matter of courtesy or precedent the business interests of St. Louis have for years named the Secretary of the Interior, the present incumbent, and several of his predecessors having been appointed from that city. That while Kansas City and other various centers of commerce which draw largely upon the Indian Territory for their business have shown themselves to be in sympathy with our people and our business interests, St. Louis has stood dumb, meanwhile pointing to the secretary of the interior as its creation. The merchants of our country hold it in their power to retaliate unless the business interests of St. Louis show by their works an interest in our welfare commensurate with the patronage they receive from our people. We feel that the stumbling blocks interposed by the secretary could be moved by the business men of St. Louis if they so desired.

We call the attention of congress and the public to the fact that the secretary has time and again so construed the acts of congress as to nullify their intent and snatch from our people the relief contemplated.

We regard the collection of the tribal taxes in the five civilized tribes, pending the appeal to the United States supreme court, as arbitrary and oppressive, and request that the collection of such taxes be suspended until our highest court has spoken.

We appeal through our representatives to the meeting of the

National Editorial Association to take up our cause with the secretary of the interior and speak through their resolutions in our behalf, and to also speak a word for the relief of our people through the editorial columns of the press represented by said association, and our delegates to said meeting are instructed to present these resolutions to the proper committee and appeal to them for aid.

We hereby appeal to the illustrious American, Theodore Roosevelt, president of the United States, whom we people of the South have learned to love for his honesty, to investigate these charges, and if they be found as represented, to give us a "square deal."

DOINGS AT KEIRSEY.

Citizens Will Meet and Plan to Erect a School Building.

Keirsey, I. T., May 23.—On account of the inclemency of the weather the speaking last Saturday-night was postponed until a future date.

Miss Gracie Springer of Durant spent a few days of the past week with Miss Effie Thornton.

Miss Dora Alexander, a beautiful and accomplished young lady of Dallas Co., Texas, opened a school at this place Tuesday with a good attendance.

J. Sam Weaver returned Sunday from a business trip to New Mexico and west Texas.

Miss Effie Thornton is spending the week with Durant friends.

Mike Sodd of Sherman spent a few days of the past week with Daniel Suff.

On Saturday, June 10th, at 4 p. m., there will be held a school meeting in our town for the purpose of arranging the details for the erection of the school house, deciding upon a location, electing three school trustees and petitioning the school supervisor for a teacher. In order to share in the distribution of the public school fund and have a teacher furnished, it is necessary that three trustees be elected at once and each child's name and nationality be placed on the application. It is therefore expected that every one interested in building a house and establishing a free school this fall will be present at the meeting. There will also be speaking. Don't forget the date.

Miss Hortie Buckley and Mrs. J. M. Hatchett made a business trip to Silo Monday.

You need groceries. Prewitt sells them cheap. 35-d&w12t

SEVERAL ARE AFTER THE JOB

Big List of Applicants Wanting to Wind up Dawes Commission Affairs.

OUT OF BUSINESS JULY 1

Tams Bixby and Ward Said to Be the Likely Ones—The Selection Should Be Made Soon.

Washington, May 23.—Nearly all the present members of the Dawes commission have had friends advocating their retention to serve in closing up the affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes. Among others mentioned for the place are Judge Smith, of the legal branch dealing with matters connected with the Indian Territory in the office of the secretary of the Interior; George Ward, of the legal division under the commissioner of Indian affairs, who has charge of all the matters in that division for Indian Territory; and Judge Russell, of the department of justice and Woodruff, who assisted Bonaparte in the Indian Territory investigation.

All these have been strongly recommended for their fitness, but inside indications point to the selection of either Tams Bixby or Ward. The appointment is expected within a week or ten days, as the Dawes commission goes out of business on July 1, and whoever is selected must have time to prepare for the important duties he is to perform.

DISTURBED THE PEACE.

Worthy Edwards Fined and Placed Under a Peace Bond.

From Tuesday's Daily.

Last afternoon Worthy Edwards, arrested by Marshal Wilcox at Pirtle, was given trial before Commissioner Parker upon the charge of drawing a deadly weapon upon a citizen near Pirtle, being acquitted. He entered a plea of guilty to the charge of disturbing the peace and was fined \$47.15 and placed under a bond of \$500 for the safe keeping of the peace hereafter. There was no charge of disturbing religious worship against him.

SPECIAL SALE

FOR ONE WEEK ONLY

This store is heavily loaded on Carpets, Matting, Rugs, Window Curtains, Window Shades, Settees, Sofas, Lounges and Chairs, and we must have the room. For the next seven days we offer them at greatly reduced prices—a saving of from 25c to \$4.00. Spring is here and the home needs brightening up. We can help you. It will be to your interest to walk into our store during the next seven days for we can certainly interest you. The goods we are showing will make you glad to see them. You must see them to do the appreciating.

5,000 ROLLS OF WALL PAPER

Durant Furniture Co.

G. W. Holmes, Manager.

AT THE Racket Store

You will find the cheapest line of Shoes in Durant. Our line of Ladies', Men's and Children's Slippers is complete. We can fit you and guarantee to save you money on every pair. "Let us show you." We sell

BATTLESHIP OVERALLS

None better. Your money back if not satisfied. We offer some SPECIAL BARGAINS in Men's Pants for the next few days. Must close them out. Don't fail to see our 5 and 10 cent counters. Yours to serve,

G. F. Harris